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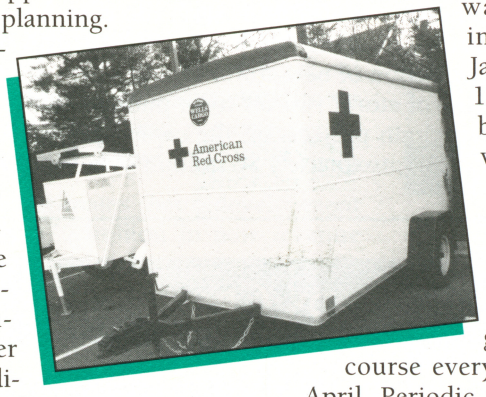
LAFAYETTE VISTAS

LAFAYETTE GEARS UP FOR EMERGENCIES

"We didn't know our neighbors until after the earthquake"
Volunteer Brad Kisner

In the aftermath of California's recent earthquakes, fires and mud slides, we are reminded of how important it is to be prepared for the calamities indigenous to our state. To gear up for emergencies, the Lafayette Emergency Action Plan (LEAP) is taking a two-pronged approach: self-reliance and government planning.

To help residents become self-sufficient in times of crisis, community volunteer Peggy Magilen is working with the Emergency Preparedness Commission to gather volunteers and divide them into cohesive support units. Each unit or team consists of 15-18 neighboring households and is directed by a team captain. Team members receive a Basic Family Preparedness Manual chock-full of helpful information such as an evacuation priority list, a supply list and a list of what *not* to do when an emergency occurs. Participating families also receive a neighborhood Emergency Task Group Manual that groups volunteers into specific teams to coordinate such essentials as first aid, search and rescue, and communications. In addition, each family is given a roster listing their neighbor's names, addresses, phone numbers, out-of-state contacts, medication details, and a neighborhood map showing where to turn off gas, water and electricity for themselves and their neighbors.



Since this self-help concept was launched in Lafayette on January 1, 1994, 116 teams have been formed with 1,700 to 1,800 families participating. The teams will come together for an emergency refresher course every October and April. Periodic team meetings also will be held to take care of emergency-preparedness tasks such as securing water heaters and learning how to turn off gas, electric and water meters.

Lafayette residents and emergency-preparedness volunteers Brad and Jeanne Kisner know how important it is to be prepared for the unexpected. When the Loma Prieta quake hit in 1989, they were living just five miles from the epicenter in Santa Cruz.

"We didn't know our neighbors until after the earthquake," says Brad. "We all wanted to help each other, but there was so much confusion. We were lucky no one around us was critically injured. Now we know how important it is to plan ahead."

At the government level, the City of Lafayette has an in-depth Emergency Plan in place. The detailed plan includes advance communication capabilities and resource and volunteer coordination. The plan will also deploy a Red Cross medical supply trailer and a new emergency response trailer which will provide supplies for on-scene rescue work (see sidebar at left).

To test Lafayette's Emergency Plan, the City will conduct an emergency preparedness exercise on Wed., April 20. The City staff will role play a variety of scenarios to find ways to improve the plan's effectiveness. Lafayette's schools and the neighborhood teams are also planning emergency preparedness activities for April 20.

To help all residents with emergency preparedness, the City of Lafayette has organized a Safety Fair. This event, on April 30th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the

(continued on back page)

Police Station Gets Grant

In January, Lafayette was tentatively awarded $181,000 in state bond money for making the City's former police station earthquake-safe. The grant will most likely be used to relocate or replace the now-vacant police headquarters adjacent to the BART station on South Thompson Road.

The old station was declared structurally unsound two years ago and was abandoned by order of the City Council. Police operations are now located in a temporary, rented space.

Final approval of the Lafayette grant now goes before the State Department of Finance. Once approved, the first installment is expected in July 1994. The City Council is now considering how to best put the grant to work.

The funds were made available through the Earthquake Safety and Public Buildings Rehabilitation Act of 1990. The money generated through the Act is earmarked for "seismically deficient" public safety buildings.

New Emergency Trailer

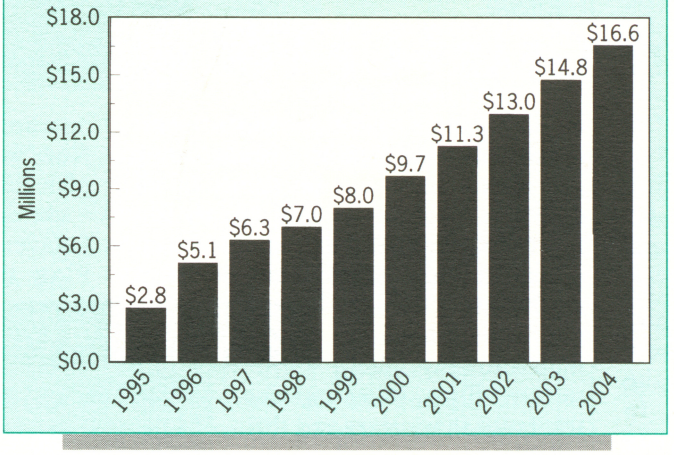
Lafayette's new emergency trailer was delivered in January and is now being equipped with a long list of rescue supplies. The new trailer, which is stored at the Public Works Department, will be ready shortly to respond to major emergencies and natural disasters. The trailer's inventory includes picks, pry bars, lights, axes, safety blankets, leather gloves, electrical cords and first aid kits.

Funded through the City's 1993 Emergency Preparedness Budget, the new trailer will complement the Red Cross trailer which is stocked with tents and blankets. The Red Cross trailer is owned by the Red Cross but is stored in Lafayette. It is used throughout the Bay Area.

POTHOLE-CITY: CPAC REPORTS ON FUNDING SHORTFALL

The Capital Projects Assessment Committee (CPAC), an independent volunteer group of Lafayette citizens charged with reviewing Lafayette's capital assets, has scoured Lafayette's capital replacement program and made its recommendations to the City Council. The Committee's final report recommends funding $20 million in projects and maintenance over the next 10 years. However, the CPAC report also estimates a funding short fall of around $1.4 million annually.

At current levels of funding, the City's capital improvement deficit will rise dramatically and become increasingly difficult to overcome.



The Committee noted that "...there is a significant backlog of projects that are needed to maintain the City's infrastructure and the Committee strongly recommends that the City develop and implement a plan to fund and complete the needed work as soon as possible. The consequence of continued deferral of capital projects and pavement maintenance will result in increasing costs to residents, deteriorating quality of life, and loss of property values."

In light of this recommendation, the City Council has formed a second all-volunteer group, The Capital Projects Funding Committee, to identify potential sources of funding.

The CPAC's findings place roadways and storm drainage at the top of Lafayette's priority list. According to a 1994 Pavement Management Study, Lafayette needs to invest approximately $9 million in preventative maintenance over the next decade in order to minimize long-term costs. Over the next two years, a disproportionate amount needs to be spent to catch up for work deferred since 1989 due to budget constraints.

The City is also faced with the eventual replacement of 11 miles of aging, galvanized steel storm drains and the construction of new storm drains where private property is at risk of storm run-off from public facilites. There are 44 storm drain projects on the capital project list with a total cost of approximately $6 million over the next decade.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS CROSS TRAINING

In January, Lafayette's Public Safety Committee met with the City Council to share its findings after months of studying Lafayette's public safety services. The committee's report calls for improving the efficiency of Lafayette's limited public safety resources. The committee believes that if its recommendations are implemented, police services will be expanded, fire protection will be more responsive and overall costs will be decreased.

The principal recommendation calls for Lafayette to merge its police and fire services into one public safety force. Combining the departments, which has been done successfully in other communities such as Rohnert Park and Sunnyvale, is now under further study with a subcommittee. The subcommittee is also gauging the interest of Orinda and Moraga to see if this may be a feasible program for all of Lamorinda.

In Rohnert Park police officers are trained as fire fighters. They carry pagers that are coded to indicate the city quadrant where a fire is located. Over 80% of all fires in Rohnert Park are extinguished by the first arriving police patrol car, which carries "turnout" gear and fire extinguishers. Patrol cars, due to their speed and maneuverability compared to a fire truck, are able to reach fires quicker in most cases.

The committee's recommendations center around Lafayette's need for additional police patrols. By merging services, both of which are currently provided by Contra Costa County, Lafayette would be able to put more public safety resources onto the streets.

Compared with six surrounding cities, Lafayette has the lowest officer-per-capita count. At present, Lafayette's typical police shift includes one patrol car south of Highway 24 and one car north of Highway 24. Lafayette's per capita expenditure for police services is $55 compared to $78-$213 per capita in 14 surrounding cities.

The committee's findings also focus on the need to update Lafayette's fire protection services. According to the report, Lafayette's fire department operates under conditions better suited to a larger metropolitan area than a small, residential community such as Lafayette and may be wasteful of the time and talents of the fire fighters.

The Public Safety Committee's report, which goes into much greater detail than the space in Lafayette Vistas allows, is available in its entirety through the City of Lafayette, 284-1968.

Disaster Masters Needed

If you are a structural or traffic engineer who would like to help with Lafayette's disaster planning and response, please contact Paul Clancy at the City of Lafayette, 284-5010. The City is also recruiting members for the Emergency Preparedness Commission, which meets periodically to refresh and improve the City's plan for disaster.

Lafayette Launches Redevelopment Plan

Lafayette is in the early stages of adopting a redevelopment project area and plan. By establishing a redevelopment plan, the Lafayette Redevelopment Agency will be able to keep a portion of the property taxes in Lafayette that would otherwise go to the County or other taxing bodies. These property tax dollars, or "tax increments," will be used for redevelopment projects implemented over the life of the plan. No new taxes would be levied on Lafayette residents.

The proposed redevelopment area tentatively includes the entire downtown area plus a few additional pockets on either side of Highway 24.

To be eligible for redevelopment funds, a community must demonstrate instances of "blight." The symptoms of blight include economic and physical deterioration. Redevelopment generally works to enhance a community's appearance, services and facilities; create jobs and better housing opportunities; retain businesses and development; and reduce crime and other social maladies. Redevelopment can also help implement a cohesive downtown plan, increase property values, and preserve neighborhood and community character.

The City currently estimates that redevelopment would provide nearly $75 million in new revenue to the City over a 40 year period.

"No new taxes would be levied on Lafayette residents."

Lafayette's Redevelopment Agency, which intends to unveil its redevelopment plan to residents this spring, is still in the process of defining its list of projects. The Agency may use the redevelopment monies for construction of public facilities; low-interest loans to owners and developers of property within the project area; rehabilitation or construction of storm drains, sidewalks, streets and utilities; and housing assistance (20% of redevelopment income is required to go toward this purpose).

Prior to its adoption, Lafayette's Redevelopment Plan will be presented at community workshops and a joint public hearing, giving residents and business people located within the project area a chance to express their views.

MILESTONES

"Milestones" will appear in each issue of ***Lafayette Vistas*** *to provide a schedule of upcoming city issues and an update on past city business.*

April 26 **BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP DAY** – High School Seniors spend the morning with local business and government leaders to gain exposure to the "real world" before retiring to lunch at the Lafayette Park Hotel. In past years, lawyers, mechanics, architects, bankers, florists and professionals from just about every field have participated. Find out how to be a sponsor, call 284-7404.

April 27 **TOWN HALL MEETING ON REDEVELOPMENT** – Find out why the City is exploring redevelopment and how it might affect you at this community meeting at the Town Hall Theater on Moraga Rd. 6:00 pm.

April 30 **SAFETY FAIR** – Get ready for the Big One! One stop shopping for emergency preparedness, sponsored by the City's Emergency Preparedness Commission. 11 am to 3 pm at the Plaza Shopping Center. For information call Peggy Magilen: 284-7179.

May **DEBUT OF THE DRAFT GENERAL PLAN** – A draft of Lafayette's General Plan will be presented to the Planning Commission and City Council this spring. The plan's new look improves on the old plan, which was adopted in the mid-70s and has served the community well in preserving its semi-rural ambiance. For specific dates and information, call the Planning Department: 284-1976.

May 7 **COMMUNITY CLEANUP DAY** – Lafayette's tireless service groups will once again coordinate this effort to pick up garbage and otherwise beautify our creeks and downtown areas. All are encouraged to participate. For information, call the Chamber of Commerce: 284-7404.

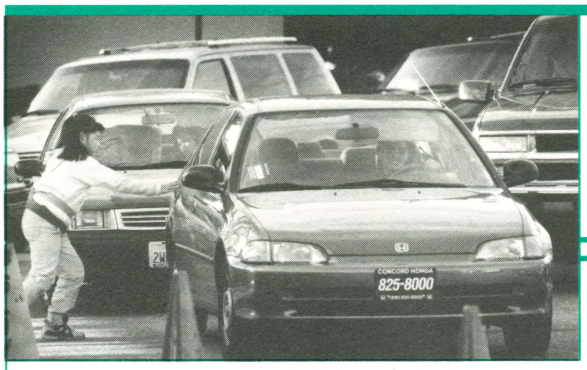
Spring **FREE! HOME COMPOSTING WORKSHOPS** – Monthly workshops teach you how to turn your trash into fertilizer. For dates and reservations, or to receive a free home composting video, call the Central Sanitary District Home Composting Hotline: 229-4240.

May 23 **'93-94 MUNICIPAL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING** – Here's your chance to tell the City Council how to spend the City's precious resources during the next fiscal year. 7:30 pm. Lafayette Community Center.

June 20–July 29 **SUMMER FUN PROGRAM** – The Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department presents a wide variety of programs for children entering Kindergarten through Eighth grade. A great selection of activities from 9 am to Noon, and an afternoon camp from Noon to 5 pm. Register at the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Rd., beginning April 25. For more information, call: 284-2232.

July 24 **CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE** – Lafayette's biggest annual affair. Fundraiser for local charities and the Chamber of Commerce. Inspect beautiful vintage autos, eat, drink and be merry! For information, call the Chamber of Commerce: 284-7404.

July 30 **QUILT FAIRE** – Did you know that the sewing shops on Brown Ave. attract quilters from all over the Bay Area? Visit Lafayette's first ever Quilt Faire to learn more about this beautiful–and local–craft. For information and specific dates, call the Cotton Patch: 284-1177



School Buses May Roll In September

This fall, Lafayette residents, commuters and school children may all enjoy the benefits of the proposed Lamorinda school bus program.

Currently, school children are taken to and from school by their parents or in car pools, which contribute to gridlock on some of Lafayette's busiest roads. By placing these students on school buses, many cars will be removed from the roads which will help reduce traffic congestion. An additional benefit is that children will be transported in a safe and convenient manner. Air quality will also be improved as the program calls for clean-fuel-burning buses made possible by a $700,000 grant from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

An additional $500,000 annually to support the program will come from Measure C, the County-wide half cent sales tax that provides for transportation improvements throughout the County. The remaining cost of the school bus service will be covered by co-payments from parents of participating students.

The Contra Costa Transportation authority (CCTA) is reviewing the school busing proposal and will decide in April if Measure C funds will be granted to launch the program for students in K-8. If the new school bus proposal is adopted, school buses will be operating in September.

However, other jurisdictions and organizations in the County are opposed to the program. Influential organizations, such as the Contra Costa Council, are endorsing large-scale Measure C projects including the proposed "Delta Expressway" in the eastern part of the county. If CCTA does not approve school buses in April, Measure C funding may be directed to other transportation projects in the area.

Parents with children in grades K-8 will receive applications for the school bus program this spring. Only through the support of Lafayette's families will the school bus program be a success. For more information on the program, contact Karen Stein at the City of Lafayette, 284-1968.

Emergencies *(continued from front page)*

Plaza Shopping Center, will offer residents one-stop shopping for their emergency supplies. Ten percent of the profits from the fair will be donated to Lafayette's schools for emergency supplies.

And if you still don't feel prepared, TCI Channel 3, the local cable station, will soon air "Surviving the Big One" on earthquakes, "Getting Out Alive" on home fire safety, and "Earthquake; Being Prepared for the Emergency At Home." These highly rated programs will air in succession from 7-9 p.m. on two evenings: Thursday, April 14 and Thursday, April 28.

If you are interested in participating in emergency preparedness by becoming a member or captain of a neighborhood team, contact volunteer Peggy Magilen at 284-7179 or Todd McCown at 284-1968.

City Directory

Officers

Anne Grodin	**Mayor**
Gayle B. Uilkema	**Vice Mayor**
Ivor Samson	**Council Member**
Donald L. Tatzin	**Council Member**
Judy Garvens	**Council Member**

The City Council meets at 6:30 pm on the second and fourth Monday of the month at the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road.

Staff

Robert F.D. Adams	**City Manager**
Steven Falk	**Assist. City Manager**
Niroop Srivatsa	**Planning Director**
Mark Lander	**City Engineer**
Jennifer Russell	**Parks and Recreation Director**
Ed McNair	**Public Works Superintendent**
Sue Jusaitis	**City Clerk**
Gregg Moore	**Police Services Mgr.**

City Offices and Police

Street Address:	**3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite 210**
Mailing Address:	**P.O. Box 1968 Lafayette, CA 94549-1968**

City Telephone Numbers

Administration:	**284-1968**
Engineering:	**284-1951**
Planning:	**284-1976**
Parks and Rec:	**284-2232**
Public Works:	**283-6271**
Senior Services:	**284-5050**
Police Business:	**284-5010**
Police Emergency:	**911**

LAFAYETTE VISTAS

is published for the residents of Lafayette and reports on issues, people and events that affect our city. As a member of this community, you are encouraged to contact us with your questions and comments. We request all correspondence be sent to:

Steven Falk, Editor, Lafayette Vistas
City of Lafayette
P.O. Box 1968
Lafayette, CA 94549-1968
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